

Dear Friends,

I enjoyed being American Radio Station (WD0GEW) -  
-a ham radio operator, and made many friends. We  
made it fun by always putting the public interest  
above ourselves. We weren't like the knuckleheads  
on CB who used profanity, or violated a public trust.

That's no longer the case on T.V. Sinclair Broad-  
casting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-  
Kerry documentary days before the election is a  
clear example of the dangers of media consolida-  
tion--and outright greed some are willing to engage  
in regardless the laws.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and  
is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But  
when large companies control the airwaves, it's like  
having a paid lobbyist come into my house uninvited,  
and that's not fair. Some of these stations see  
what's good for the bottom line but don't give a  
squat about what's good for our democracy. Instead  
of promoting the public interest, these violations are  
creating an "us" vs. "them" mentality and it's  
destroying a public trust that may never be fully  
restored.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen  
media ownership rules, and enforce the guidelines  
such stations enjoy. They need to know that license  
renewal process needs to involve more than a  
returned postcard. It must be sealed with the  
public's interest at heart. Anything less leads to the  
slippery slope that will make it hard to ever trust  
local stations. Your willingness to act on this issue  
will have long-range implications to be fair, or  
appear "bought off" by these special interests that  
only serve their interests -- not the public's. Please  
do not give groups like Sinclair that green light by  
turning your heads to this issue. We, hams who  
followed the rules worked too hard to see that kind  
of public trust destroyed. Thank you!!

Thank you.